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For Immediate Release

GOVERNOR PROCLAIMS CREDIT UNION DAY OCTOBER 20

OLYMPIA – Governor Christine Gregoire has [proclaimed October 20](#) as a special day to recognize credit unions in Washington State. The Department of Financial Institutions (DFI) is pleased to join the Governor in recognizing the contributions credit unions offer to the financial services industry.

“Credit unions concentrate on providing member-focused service. Some have gone to great lengths to help their members become better-informed financial services consumers,” said Linda Jekel, DFI Division of Credit Unions Director.

DFI examines and supervises credit unions to protect the financial interests of their members. There are currently 78 state-chartered credit unions operating in Washington with total assets of approximately \$16.9 billion.

“Our state-chartered credits unions make up a strong industry in Washington State,” commented Jekel, who also serves as Chair of the National Association of State Credit Union Supervisors. “We are known across the country for offering a progressive regulatory environment that allows the industry to operate efficiently and effectively.”

Credit Union Day has been celebrated internationally on the third Thursday of October for the past 55 years. Special events are planned at credit unions across the state to mark the day.

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Messages to Washington State's credit unions from [President George W. Bush](#) and [JoAnn Johnson, Chair of the National Credit Union Administration](#), are posted on DFI's website (www.DFI.WA.GOV).

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About state-chartered credit unions

Credit unions are cooperative, nonprofit organizations created for the purpose of promoting thrift among their members and providing them with a source of credit. Shares and deposits are insured by the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund, administered by the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA).

DFI's Division of Credit Unions regulates state-chartered credit unions under the Washington State Credit Union Act (RCW 31.12). The division's rules are set in Title 208 WAC.